

**CHILD DEATH, NEAR DEATH AND STILLBIRTH COMMISSION  
AND  
CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION  
1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL JOINT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2005  
GRASSDALE CONFERENCE CENTER  
DELAWARE CITY**

**MINUTES**

Those in attendance:

Members of the Child Death, Near Death & Stillbirth Commission ("CDNDSC"):

Dr. Garrett H.C. Colmorgen  
\*Carl Danberg, Esq.  
\*Tania Culley, Esq.  
\*Secretary Cari DeSantis  
\*Sergeant Randy Fisher (proxy for Col. Macleish)  
Dr. Kathy Janiver  
\*Captain James Jubb  
\*Janice Mink  
Deputy Secretary Nancy Wilson

Staff to CDNDSC:

Florence, Albuquerque	Executive Director
Michael Brown	
Shereen Williams	

Members of the Child Protection Accountability Commission ("CPAC"):

Statutory Role:

The Honorable Peggy Ableman	Child Protection Comm. 16 <u>Del. C.</u> §912(a)(10)
Susan Cycyk	Dir. of Child Mental Health 16 <u>Del. C.</u> §912(a)(9)
Allan DeJong, M.D.	Medical Community 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(10)
*Sec. Cari DeSantis	Children's Department 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912(a)(1)
*Carl Danberg, Esq.	Attorney General's Office 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(3)
Peter Feliceangeli, Esq.	Attorney General's Office 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(3)
*Sergeant Randy Fisher	Child Protection Comm. 16 <u>Del. C.</u> §912(a)(10)
(proxy for Col. Macleish)	
Carlyse A. Giddins	Dir. of Div. of Family Servs. 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(2)
John Humphrey	Child Protection Comm. 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(10)
The Honorable Chandlee J. Kuhn	Family Court 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912(a)(4)
*Janice Mink	Child Protection Comm. 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(10)
Julia Pearce	Child Placement Review Board 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(7)
Merrijane Pierce	Inter. Comm. On Adoption 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912(a)(10)
Linda Wolfe	Dept. of Education 16 <u>Del. C.</u> § 912 (a)(8)
(proxy for Sec. Valerie Woodruff)	

\* indicates members of both commissions

Staff to CPAC:

\*Tania M. Culley, Esq.

Executive Director

Guests:

Candace Charkow

Karen DeRasmo

Harvey Doppelt, Ph. D

Angela Fowler, Esq.

Trish Hearn

Lorin M. Hochman, Esq.

Blake Jones

Mariann Kenville-Moore

Laura Miles

Mary Ball Morton

Anne Pedrick

## I. Welcome/Introductions

Dr. Colmorgen called the meeting to order and introduced Tania Culley who stood in for Jennifer Ranji who was not able to be present. Ms. Culley then introduced the guest speaker, Blake Jones, from the University of Kentucky.

## II. Presentation

Dr. Blake Jones presented “Coordination of Child Death Review and Citizen Review Panels: Maximizing Opportunities to Prevent Fatal and Near Fatal Abuse and Neglect.” Dr. Jones presented a review of the history of citizen review panels and discussed both their evolution and the goals they seek to achieve. Next, Dr. Jones went through the requirements for citizen review panels and discussed the work that they do, noting that panels can examine a number of aspects of the child protective system. Dr. Jones also highlighted the new requirements under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (“CAPTA”) Reauthorization from 2003 and then discussed examples of models of citizen review panels in the United States.

Subsequently, Dr. Jones went over the origins of Child Death Review, discussing the history and purpose of such reviews. Following the general discussion, Dr. Jones reviewed child death review in Delaware through the Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission (“CDNDSC”).

Next, Dr. Jones compared child death reviews and citizen review panels, highlighting their commonalities and differences. He then discussed how the Child Protection Accountability Commission (“CPAC”) is Delaware’s citizen review panel and as such advocates for changes that improve the child welfare system. Dr. Jones also discussed the benefits of CPAC and CDNDSC coordinating and working together.

Finally, Dr. Jones discussed research on citizen review panels and what he has learned about them in the six years he has been working with them.

Before concluding his presentation, Dr. Jones spent time answering questions from the attendees.

### III. Delaware Child Welfare Recommendations: An Overview

Tania Culley reviewed the notebooks that had been passed out to Commission members, indicating they contained recommendations that had already been accepted and that the group's goal was to figure out what to do with the recommendations. Ms. Culley further explained that the recommendations had been broken down into 16 broad categories including:

- The Division of Family Services ("DFS") Office of Child Care Licensing
- DFS Office of Children's Services Caseloads/Workloads
- DFS Office of Children's Services Casework
- DFS Office of Children's Services Hiring Practices and Supervision Issues
- DFS Office of Children's Services Investigation
- DFS Office of Children's Services Treatment
- Family Court
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Legal/Legislative
- Medical Community
- Multi-Disciplinary Coordination and Collaboration
- Multi-Disciplinary Reporting and Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Multi-Disciplinary Training
- Multi-Disciplinary Use of Child Welfare History In Decision Making
- Office of the Attorney General
- Well-Being (Mental Health Services)

Following discussion, it was agreed that the group wants to collect follow up information from each agency to which the recommendations pertain to ascertain what the issues are and what is being done to address each one of them. Following that, action groups may be formed to address gaps in the system. The group further agreed to meet again in six months to discuss this work. Of the 150 recommendations handed out, each agency is to go through those that apply specifically to them as well as those that are multidisciplinary but relate to them.

By December 31, 2005, each agency is to have its report to Anne Pedrick. The Office of the Child Advocate will then input the information and report back to the Commission. At a meeting in March, the group will figure out what needs to be done going forward and form action team to address those needs.

Although there was no formal vote taken, no one from CPAC objected to the plan. Dr. Colmorgen noted there was not a quorum from CDNDSC so they were unable to vote.

### IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.